

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 2, 3, 5-13, 15-29, 31 and 32 are pending in the application, with claims 2, 3, 5, 15-17, 25, and 31-32 being the independent claims.

The Office Action on page 5, in section 5, states that claims 25-29 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for such allowance.

The Office Action on page 5, in section 4, states that claims 2, 3, 5-13, 15-24, 31 and 32 are objected to and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication for allowable subject matter. The allowable claims dependent claims have been rewritten in independent form. Specifically, claims 2 and 3 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 1; claim 5 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4; claims 15-17 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 14; and claims 31 and 32 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 30. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 5-13, 15-24, 31 and 32 now recite allowable subject matter. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn and claims 2, 3, 5-13, 15-24, 31 and 32 be allowed.

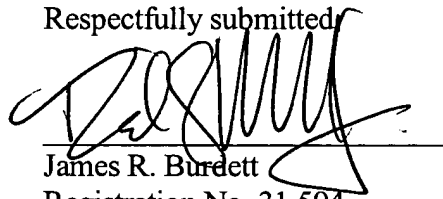
The Office Action on pages 2-5, in sections 2-3, rejects claims 1, 4, 14, and 30 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,212,174 to Lomp et al. While the Office Action Summary and the introductory paragraph on page 2 of the detailed action indicate that claim 13 is rejected, it is apparent from the remainder of the detailed action that claim 14 is rejected instead of claim 13. Accordingly, the following remarks are based upon the presumption that the Examiner intended to reject claim 14. By this amendment, claims 1, 4, 14, and 30 are cancelled, thus rendering this rejection

moot with respect to claims 1, 4, 14, and 30. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that all outstanding objections and rejections have been fully addressed and overcome or rendered moot. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all outstanding objections and rejections. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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